Under sea cable between India and middle east

1684. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) is planning to set up on under sea cable system between India and middle east;

(b) if so, the details thereof with quantum bandwidth on th route with total investment of the project and total capacity being planned on this route;

(c) whether BSNL also propose to share the infrastructure with private telecom operators at mutually agreeable fee; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has intimated about planning of total bandwidth of 320 Giga bit (ultimate capacity) with a total investment of Rs. 800/- crores catering to 3.87 Million Voice Channels.

(c) The decision in this regard would be taken as per prevailing market situation at that time by BSNL.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Laying of cable between Chennai and Singapore

1685. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an over supply scenario on the India-Singapore submarine cable route where BSNL is planning to build its cable;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is fact that as many as 3-mega capacity cables would be operational between Chennai and Singapore shortly;